



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate circulation

RECORD Infrastructure underspend

In Estimates today, the Treasurer and Infrastructure Minister admitted in response to questions from the Opposition, after months of empty promises and public commentary that the Labor government would not spend its so-called record \$1.75 billion infrastructure spend.

Instead, the Treasurer admitted \$1.3 billion would not be spent by the end of this financial year.

Leader of the Opposition Gary Higgins said that the record revote is a clear indication of Labor's failure to stimulate, let alone manage the Territory economy.

"As the Opposition has been saying for months, this Territory government is failing to get much needed money out the door, and finally, today, the Minister admitted that.

"Today's Estimates also showed that this government has no urgency and no plan.

"Given that last week's ABS National Accounts confirmed that the Territory is in domestic recession, now is the time for urgent action.

"The Labor government has no plan to attract private investment, no plan to support small business and no plan to curb the crime crisis.

"The Treasurer also let the cat out of the bag when she revealed that Treasury has already factored in a credit downgrade.

"And on a day for admissions, the Treasurer continued to say that the Government's 50 per cent renewables target is not a target at all, but a loose 'aspiration.'

"The huge revote, made up of projects which have been carried forward or will be carried forward, is embarrassing, particularly given the rapid rate at which the Territory's economy is declining.

"Despite much rhetoric, the government has not managed an effective infrastructure program.

"How can Territorians trust this Labor Government, when the Government doesn't even believe in their own rhetoric," said Mr Higgins.

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